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Title: Need to supply kerosene at subsidized rates to fishermen of Lakshadweep Islands.

SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the issue of supply of kerosene for fishing boats in Lakshadweep Islands. Earlier, the amount of kerosene needed for fishing boat was met through the supply under the PDS. Use of PDS supplied kerosene has now been stopped on the orders of the Ministry, as it cannot be used for commercial purpose. Under the circumstances, the Department of Fisheries took up the matter with the Agricultural Ministry and finally approval was accorded from Petroleum Ministry for supply of Non-PDS Kerosene. As the procurement formalities from Indian Oil Corporation Ltd like licence etc. have not been materialized, they have not been able to lift the Non-PDS Kerosene. The fishermen whose boats run on kerosene are suffering because of the lack of fuel. Since no subsidy is provided by the Ministry on the fuel for fishing operations, I would like to suggest two alternatives. One is to supply the required kerosene on subsidized rates. Previously the fishermen were purchasing kerosene at Rs. 36 per litre, now they are being asked to pay Rs.70 per litre. So, it is necessary to provide subsidized kerosene to the people of Lakshadweep or else their livelihood will be affected. Second option is to make a special case for Lakshadweep so that PDS supply can be used for fishing boats.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to consider the plight of fishermen because of unaffordable price of fuel and its non-availability and take all possible steps to resolve the issue to help Scheduled Tribe Islanders.